

cathedral city

# Genealogical group gets to the DNA of it

BY TAMARA H. SONE  
The Desert Sun

America is known as the "melting pot" of the world with various cultures, religions and races all migrating to the country over hundreds of years.

With so much diversity and intermingling of races, tracing your family history can be challenging.

The Palm Springs Genealogical Society gathered on Saturday at the Cathedral City library to learn how DNA testing can make finding ancestors a little easier.

"I have been trying to trace what tribe my family is from," said Palm Springs resident Gloria Gonzales, a Native American.

"Many of my relatives did not have birth certificates, so I am going off of a baptism certificate. I have been searching for over 10 years."

Guest speaker Dallas J. Bordenave Jr. understands the group's frustration.

For years Bordenave scoured hundreds of pages of vital records and paperwork only to become more confused as to his family's lineage.

"Vital records are written by people, and people make mistakes. DNA tests don't lie, so that is a great way to start the search process," Bordenave said.

Through DNA testing, Bordenave, Jr. found he has Creole, European, Native American and French genes.

Through his presentation of, "Am I Black or Am I White?" Bordenave talked about his trials and errors in piecing together information about his family.

According to Bordenave, finding out your heritage is the first step in tracing your family history.

"I took my first test in July of 2009 ..." Bordenave said.

"I wanted to know who I was for my own personal satisfaction."

Sharon McGrath from Rancho Mirage has been a member of the society for two years and believes what she learned from other members has helped in her search to trace family lines.

"Each meeting we have a speaker and learn about different topics that have helped me to find my roots," McGrath said.

Currently, the society has about 50 members, and they meet at the Cathedral City library the first Saturday of each month.

"The society has been in the Coachella Valley for 27 years, so we have been around for quite awhile," society President Carol Glow said.

The fee to join is \$25 per person and \$30 for a couple. Those interested in joining can sign up at any of the monthly meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 12 at the Cathedral City Library, 33-520 Date Palm Drive.

indio

# Man arrested in shooting death

BY TAMARA H. SONE  
The Desert Sun

A 27-year-old Indio man was arrested Saturday in connection with the fatal shooting of another man whose body was found Friday night at an Indio apartment complex.

Jesse Daniel Sanchez, 27, was arrested at his parents' house on the 82-100 block Bliss Street, police said. Sanchez attempted to evade police by running out the back door of the house and through the yard but was taken into custody without further incident, officials said.

He is detained in the Riverside County Jail in Indio on a murder charge and outstanding warrants, according to Indio Police spokesman Ben Guitron.

"At this time, we do not have any details

on the motive," Guitron said. This is the second homicide in Indio this year.

The name of the victim in Friday's incident has not been released.

Around 11:30 p.m. Friday, police were called to the Cienega Apartment complex, in the 82-100 block of Avenue 50, where they found the dead man.

After the Riverside County coroner took possession of the body, a single gunshot wound was discovered in the man's back, Guitron said.

A search for the weapon is under way, and an autopsy is scheduled for early next week.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact investigators at (760) 391-4057 or Crime Stoppers at (760) 341-7867.

palm springs



COURTESY OF ST. THERESA SCHOOL

St. Theresa School third-graders Izaiah Adams and Ethan Hardisty take a break Friday during the school's walk-a-thon.

## Walking for a basketball court

Students from St. Theresa School took a walk for the school's basketball court on Friday.

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade walked through the streets of Palm Springs from the school to city hall and back.

The annual walk-a-thon raised money to repave the school's basketball court.

"The annual walk-a-thon is a much loved St. Theresa School tradition, and we are always incredibly grateful to those residents and businesses who make pledges to help us improve our school," Principal Cheryl Corey said in a news release.

— MICHELLE MITCHELL



COURTESY OF ST. THERESA SCHOOL

St. Theresa School students participate in a walk-a-thon on Friday to help raise money for the Palm Springs school.

coachella valley

# Teaching teachers of wind

BY MICHELLE MITCHELL  
The Desert Sun

About 30 Coachella Valley teachers spent their Saturday learning how to incorporate lessons on wind energy into their classrooms.

Representatives from the KidWind Project presented the workshop, which taught educators the principles of wind energy, provided ways to include these lessons in the curriculum and gave them materials to build miniature, working windmills.

"My goal is to have teachers become more aware of this form of renewable energy," particularly because of the visible presence of wind turbines in the Coachella Valley, said Larry McLaughlin, who heads College of the Desert's Energy Enterprise Center in Palm Springs where the training was held.

"The energy industry is going to be more and more an important industry for our valley."

Several of the teachers who participated in the workshop came from high school programs specifically dedicated to renewable energy — the Green Technology Academy at Desert Mirage High School in Thermal and the Renewable Energy Academy of Learning at Desert Hot Springs High.

"It's just a great opportunity for them to put into practice a lot of what they see" on a theoretical level in class, said Tracy Piper, assistant principal at Desert Hot Springs High who oversees REAL.

The teachers also learned about an opportunity for their students to enter a regional competition coordinated by KidWind.

That competition is particularly important for the students in the academy who are considering pursuing a career in energy.

"It helps them see where they stand with other kids who will be competing for the same jobs," Piper said.

The event was funded through the National Science Foundation and the American Wind Energy Association and put on by College of the Desert and the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership.

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